



FUTURE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS? -- These students at Leisure Park Elementary in Broken Arrow were anxious to get a closer look at the Guinea pig held by BAPD Animal Control Officer Sherry Gardner. Gardner and Louise Dickey of the Animal Shelter were at the school as part of a Careers Day program.

Tulsa Transit Taking Over... Bus Passengers Dwindling

The first three years that the City of Broken Arrow provided a bus service to residents seemed promising. From its beginning in 1996 through 1999, ridership had climbed to 10,102 for the year. In the 2004 fiscal year, however, that number had declined to 4,226. Projections for this year are for about 3,500 riders.

Due to those low numbers in usage and higher operating costs (fuel, maintenance), the City Council has approved a recommendation from staff members that negotiations be made with the Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority to take over the bus system in Broken Arrow.

The City is not required to operate a transit service. The current cost of operations is about \$90,000 per year. That means it would cost the City more than \$25 per trip if those 2005 projections hold. Another factor in the decision was the age of the City's lone bus, which has more than 165,000 miles on it.

Negotiations with MTTA have begun, with an eye to the increasing number of senior citizens and residents with special needs. A complete marketing and promotional plan would be included by MTTA.



CART PUSHING -- City employees participate with Leadership BA members in the Rooster Days Parade along Main Street,

Drive-Through Utility Bill Window Closing in July

Up until now, most of the physical changes at City Hall have been taking place inside the walls. Starting July 1, however, there will be some noticeable changes on the exterior of the facility -- most specifically the southwest end which currently includes a drive-through window for paying utility bills.

That drive-through window will be closed and will be replaced by drop box at a location outside the building where customers can pay bills without having to leave their vehicle. Beginning in April the City gave its customers the option of paying via the Internet through the Click-2-Gov system by logging onto its web site (www.brokenarrowok.gov).

City construction crews have been working for several weeks on a renovation of the north end of City Hall. When completed later this summer, one of its main features will be a One Stop Center of the Community Development Department. That department will serve not only the development businesses, but the general public as well. A new cashier station will also be established adjacent to the front lobby of City Hall to make it easier for customers.

A survey showed that a daily average of 159 customers have been using the drive-through window. Of those, 101 would drop off their exact payment and require no service. Only 58 customers needed help of some kind. That translated to 6 1/2 hours per day for cashiers at the window.

The new system will allow those cashiers to wait on customers, but also perform other duties.

Everywhere A Sign? Not For Much Longer!

Years ago, in the hit song "Signs," by the Five Man Electrical Band, the vocalist lamented about signs being everywhere, running and ruining his life. The song's verse, "Signs, signs, everywhere a sign," could apply to Broken Arrow today because of the seemingly endless proliferation of cardboard signs in the street right-of-ways and nailed to utility poles.

These cardboard placards tout everything from weight loss pills to health insurance, popping up like unwanted dandelions during the night. They clutter the roadside, obstruct vision of traffic, and distract drivers who should be watching other vehicles rather than trying to read ads at 30 M.P.H. Most citizens feel they should be illegal, and in fact, they already are.

City Ordinance has prohibited signs in the right-of-way for years, and Oklahoma Statutes already prohibit tacking signs to utility poles. But the folks who choose to advertise in that method ignore both the Ordinance and Statutes. Our old Ordinance stated city employees would remove the signs, keep them for three days before destroying them, and try to notify the owner, who could come and retrieve them for a fee. That method of enforcement is costly to administer and inefficient, and only a few more expensive metal real estate signs were ever redeemed.

With the anticipated passage of a revised Ordinance at the June 6 City Council meeting, Public Works refuse pickup crews will remove the illegal signs as they travel their trash routes and immediately dispose of them in their trucks. This will add all those crews to the limited number who have had the task in the past.

Removal of illegal signs will be a continual process to clean up our streets and keep them that way.

Instead of "Everywhere a sign," let's make our new song "No where an illegal sign," and keep Broken Arrow beautiful!

Mayor Richard Carter



Mayor Carter



GOOD EATS FOR GOOD CAUSE -- Firefighters at BA Station No. 5 serve up some of the barbecue they cooked as a recent fundraiser for United Way.

City Phones On New System

In a move which should save the City several thousands of dollars each year, employees working at City Hall and the City Hall Annex are now using a new VoIP (Voicer over Internet Protocol) phone system.

The move follows a similar project which tied in with the opening of the Justice Center. Employees of the City's Information Services Division set up a phone system at the JC and the Police Department which uses the City's computer data base network wiring for phones. That system was finished on Good Friday.

While the 251-5311 main number to City Hall will remain the same, callers will now be able to either dial the extension of their party, or rely on a recorded directory for both departments and employees. The VoIP City Hall system was operational May 16, but employees did not begin using it until June 1.

City Move To Save Nearly \$3 Million

The City, through the Broken Arrow Municipal Authority and the Broken Arrow Public Golf Authority, has initiated paying off the debt that was used to create the Battle Creek Golf Course 10 years ago.

In 1995 about \$2 million was borrowed to build the golf course, which is located along the east side of Aspen starting north of the Broken Arrow Expressway and extending to 41st Street. The loan runs through 2020 at an average interest rate of 6.8 percent. There is still about \$4.6 million owed on that debt.

By borrowing from other City funds now to pay off that debt, about \$2.8 million in interest costs can be saved. The money would come from the sewer system development fee and would be repaid in eight years at 3.1 percent interest. The City Council approved the plan at its May 16 meeting.

Helpful City Phone Numbers

City Hall (Main No.)	251-5311
Police Department	451-8200
Emergencies	911
Animal Control	259-8311
Action Center	258-3587
Fire Dept.	259-8360
Parks & Rec.	259-8380
Maintenance Center	259-8373
Municipal Court /Traffic Fines	451-8558
Utility Payment/Water Dept.	259-8409
One Stop Center	259-8333
Park Grove Cemetery	259-8691
Community Center	259-8437
Central Pool	259-8695
Battle Creek Golf Course	355-4850
City Manager's Office	259-8419
City Legal Department	259-8422

**After Hours Emergencies
for Water, Sewer
451-8400**

'American Patriot' Statue Dedication July 4 in Park

Broken Arrow's Veterans Park on Main Street will be the site for an important Independence Day program this summer when dedication ceremonies will be held for a Broken Arrow Veterans Memorial and the statue, "American Patriot," will be unveiled.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony, which will begin at 10 a.m. Veterans Park, which is already home to the statue of Lt. Col. Ernest Childers, who passed away this past year, is located at 1111 S. Main, across from the Family Aquatic Center.

Brigadier General Ed Wheeler, who served some of his early military career with the Broken Arrow National Guard unit, will be the keynote speaker for the event. Gov. Brad Henry has been invited to attend.

Paul Barrett, chairman of the Veterans Memorial Project steering committee that led the fund-raising effort to finance the "American Patriot" statue by noted sculptor J. David Nunneley of Broken Arrow, said the memorial is being dedicated to honor all Broken Arrows who have served honorably in all branches of the military service during the city's history. There will be a prelude of patriotic music from the award-winning high school band, "The Pride of Broken Arrow." The colors will be presented by the United States Marine Corps Reserve's honor guard. The statue, which will find its permanent home on the southwest corner of the park, is a larger-than-life creation based on the image of Major William (Hank) Miesner, a 1957 BAHS graduate who served with heroic distinction during the Vietnam War. He died in 2003 after a military career which spanned three decades. Miesner is buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Mayor Richard Carter will be on hand to speak of the City's involvement of the program, which included a commitment to accept ownership of the new statue and to expand and modify Veterans Park.



City's CORE VALUES

Excellence Character Leadership

The City's Core Values were developed by members of the City Staff, City Council and administrators who met in a series of Strategic Planning Sessions over the course of several weeks. It is designed as a guideline to City employees as they deal with the day-to-day challenges of meeting the needs of our citizens.

Community Calendar

**June 7, 14, 21 and 28 -- Tuesday in the Park
Concerts at Central Park, on each of those Tuesday
evenings. Free and open to the public.**

June 17-18 -- Oklahoma Heritage Days Antique Tractor Show, 8 a.m. to dark each day at the OATA Club grounds, 10217 S. 257 E. Ave. (South of BA at Hwy 51 and Midway Road).

June 25 -- Blue Bell Ice Cream's Taste of Summer 2005. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Blue Bell, 81st and Hwy. 51. Admission \$4, with children 6 and under admitted free. Tours, face painting, ice cream, games and contests and local entertainment.

July 4 -- Independence Day dedication ceremony for the Broken Arrow Veterans Memorial and unveiling of the "American Patriot" statue in Veterans Park. Starts at 10 a.m. in the park at 1111 S. Main Street. Brig. Gen. Ed Wheeler will be the featured speaker.

July 26 -- "Drums of Summer," presented by the Drum Corps International. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. at BAHS Memorial Stadium. Reserved seats may be purchased by calling 636-3778 or going on-line at www.DrumsOfSummer.com.

Water Aerobics Program Makes Changes in Pool Hours

A Summer Water Aerobics program at the Family Aquatic Center in Central Park has created some changes in the pool hours. Both the FAC and the pool at Country Aire opened over Memorial Day weekend.

On Tuesdays through Fridays, public swimming at the FAC will be available from 12 noon to 7 p.m.. Hours on Saturdays will be 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Water Aerobics Classes will be held from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. The FAC is closed for cleaning on Mondays.

Cost for open swimming at the FAC is \$2 for ages 55 and over and 3 to 11, and \$3 for 12 and older. Prices at Country Aire are \$1 and \$2.

Hours at Country Aire will be 12 noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday. It will be closed on Tuesdays for cleaning.

Cost of the Water Aerobics classes is \$20 for either the morning or the evening sessions. The first session runs from June 7 to July 1 and the next from July 6 to Aug. 5. For information call 259-8437 or 355-0287.

There are still openings in the Learn to Swim program. Call 259-8436 for information.